



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#9 PB

11.15.03

October 31, 2003

Applicant(s): Rainer KIRCHHUEBEL, et al.

For: MICROSCOPE FOR THE WIDE-ANGLE VIEWING,
IN PARTICULAR FOR EYE SURGERIES

Serial No.: 10/023 783 Group: 2872

Confirmation No.: 6621

Filed: December 17, 2001 Examiner: Nguyen

Atty. Docket No.: Missling 369

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the provisions of Rules 1.97(e) and 1.98, enclosed is a Search Report which issued from the European Patent Office on September 18, 2003 and the references cited therein.

I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in the communication from the European Patent Office in the counter-art foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The attached European Search Report provides a concise explanation of the cited references. For DE 89 02 0354, an English translation of the pertinent text is provided herewith for your consideration.

Applicants also take this opportunity to make the Examiner aware of commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/981 468 filed October 16, 2001, now U.S. Patent Publ. No. US 2002/0044256A1. There is some similarity in the disclosure of this application and the publication. However, this application has a foreign priority date before the U.S. filing date of the publication.



In the event fees are required in order to have this statement considered, the undersigned solicitor hereby authorizes the charging of Deposit Account No. 06-1382.

Further consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Tumm

Brian R. Tumm

BRT/ad

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Encl: European Search Report
Form PTO-1449
One copy of each cited reference

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